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From: Honker, William
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 1:27 PM
To: Thilsted, Eugene;Cardenas, Adele;Atkins, Blake;McCormick, Karen;Dellinger, Philip;Brown, Jamesr;Hosch, Claudia;Watson, Jane;Taylor, Patricia-A;Taheri, Diane
Subject: FW: Daily News Digest, Jan. 7
Attachments: Daily News Digest 01072015.pdf

Note

Cloudcroft reuse item

Houma Tribe articles

Bunch of fracking items

Bill

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From: Hubbard, Joseph
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2015 10:41 AM
To: R6 Daily News MailList
Subject: Daily News Digest, Jan. 7

1 – Dope Deal: Wall Street Journal Falls for Methane “Facts” Cooked by Industry, Environmental Defense Fund, 1/6/2015

<http://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2015/01/06/dope-deal-wall-street-journal-falls-for-methane-facts-cooked-by-industry/>

When credibility is your stock in trade, it's important to have your facts straight. On Monday, the Wall Street Journal blew it. In an unsigned opinion piece dubbed “Meth Heads in the White House,” the paper dismisses plans expected to be announced by the Obama administration in the next few weeks that would start to tackle the huge amount of methane leaking from America's oil & gas production facilities.

2 – Builder helps make geothermal standard in Oklahoma city neighborhoods, Contractor, 1/6/2015

<http://contractormag.com/geothermal/builder-helps-make-geothermal-standard-oklahoma-city-neighborhoods> When it comes to hearing “it just can't be done,” Oklahoma City-based Ideal Homes couldn't be more welcoming of the challenge. Specializing in energy-efficient homes priced under \$200,000, Ideal Homes has been racking up a long list of industry firsts for nearly two decades. Among other notable achievements, this list includes being the first builder recognized by the EPA as a "5-Star" Energy Builder for Homes Under \$150,000 (in 1997), and being the first in the U.S. to build a "Zero Energy Home" priced under \$200,000.

3 – Fort Smith Residents Speak Out Against Sewer Rate Hikes, Times Record, 1/7/2015

<http://swtimes.com/news/fort-smith-residents-speak-out-against-sewer-rate-hikes#sthash.lcNFoNvP.dpuf>

Residents opposed to looming sewer-rate hikes in Fort Smith expressed their frustrations to city leaders Tuesday night. “Why didn’t we address this 15-20 years ago about this sewer that’s going on instead of just knocking folks’ socks off right now?” resident Edward McCurtain asked city leaders during a Town Hall forum. “We should have done that a long time ago.”

4 – EPA settlement will not change rates for Fort Smith wholesale water users, City Wire, 1/6/2015

<http://www.thecitywire.com/node/35989#.VK1JDCvF9Cg>

Van Buren and other wholesale water customers of the Fort Smith water system will not see their rates change to help pay for the estimated \$480 million Fort Smith will have to invest by 2026 as part of an agreement with the federal government.

5 – TCEQ to hear from stakeholders over LCRA water plan, Burnet Bulletin, 1/7/2015

<http://www.burnetbulletin.com/articles/2015/01/07/tceq-hear-stakeholders-over-lcra-water-plan>

One of the top priorities for stakeholders in the Colorado River’s upper basin is to ensure the establishment of an updated plan that better protects the Highland Lakes water supply which is vital to much of Central Texas. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) currently is considering the Lower Colorado River Authority’s (LCRA) proposed update to its plan that was last changed in 2010.

6 – McAllen Resident Worries about Fracking, KRGV, 1/6/2015

<http://www.krgv.com/news/local-news/McAllen-Resident-Worries-about-Fracking/30564996>

A McAllen resident is worried that fracking activity near his home may damage the apartment complex where he lives. Jose Reyes lives near the OXY USA McAllen location. The Houston-based company is using fracking to get natural gas. Reyes said the drilling has caused his apartment to shake. He moved into the complex six years ago.

7 – NM’s first ‘toilet to tap’ project years overdue and millions over budget, New Mexico Watch Dog, 1/7/2015

<http://watchdog.org/191087/wastewater-over-budget/>

After having to truck in fresh water to make it through tourist season during a drought in the early days of the 21st century, the village of Cloudcroft turned to a novel idea — spend \$2.3 million to recycle wastewater for household use. But the cost of the project has since swelled to nearly \$6 million, according to a Legislative Finance Committee report, and is likely to go higher.

8 Nine tremors jolt North Texas in less than 24 hours, WFAA, 1/7/2015

<http://www.wfaa.com/story/news/local/dallas-county/2015/01/06/irving-earthquake-north-texas/21352091/>

Nine earthquakes centered near the old Texas Stadium site in Irving jolted North Texans on Tuesday and into the early hours of Wednesday. The largest of the quakes — 3.5 and 3.6 magnitude — were felt by thousands across dozens of cities. There were no reports of injuries or serious damage, although some residents worried about the potential impact on their homes.

9 – Study links Ohio earthquakes to Houston company’s wells, Fuel Fix, 1/6/2015

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2015/01/06/study-links-ohio-earthquakes-to-houston-companys-wells/>

Earthquakes that shook an Ohio town last year are linked to hydraulic fracturing, according to a study published in a scientific journal Tuesday. In March 2014, five recorded earthquakes of 2.1 to 3.0 magnitude

happened within 0.6 miles of a group of oil and gas wells in Poland Township, Ohio operated by Houston-based Hilcorp Energy, which was conducting fracturing operations at the time, the study said.

10 – BLM postpones oil and gas lease sale, Beaumont Enterprise, 1/7/2015

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/business/energy/article/BLM-postpones-oil-and-gas-lease-sale-5998761.php>

The Bureau of Land Management has postponed an oil and gas lease sale for a handful of parcels in northwestern New Mexico, saying more time is needed to review public comments. Environmentalists contend the leases would have opened the door for hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, before the agency updates its management plan.

11 – (Opinion) Webber: It's time for Republicans to pass carbon tax, Houston Chron, 1/6/2015

<http://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Webber-It-s-time-for-Republicans-to-pass-carbon-5997549.php>

As Republicans prepare to take over Congress, they should take a page from Bill Clinton's playbook, demonstrate their ability to govern and seize the moment to do something great for the country: pass a carbon tax. Several prominent conservatives have advocated for a carbon tax, but generally speaking, both taxes and carbon regulation are unpopular with Republicans.

12 - Oil group CEO: Amid price drop, US set to be global leader, Odessa America, 1/6/2015

http://www.oaoa.com/news/government/article_27f106c0-68d4-5e42-8489-572c88e159ca.html

Plunging oil prices have hurt American companies in the short run, but increased U.S. production means that the country is on the path to become a global leader in oil production, the head of the U.S. oil and gas industry's top lobbying arm said Tuesday. Falling oil prices have empowered the United States and weakened OPEC and Russia, said Jack Gerard, the CEO of the American Petroleum Institute.

13 - Honeywell's Baton Rouge plant begins producing low-global-warming-potential material, NOLA.com, 1/6/2015

http://www.nola.com/business/baton-rouge/index.ssf/2015/01/honeywells_baton_rouge_plant_b.html

Honeywell announced Tuesday (Jan. 6) it's started full-scale commercial production of a low-global-warming-potential (GWP) material used as an aerosol propellant, insulating agent and refrigerant at its Fluorine Products Baton Rouge production facility.

14 - In West Texas, protest aims to stop fracking sand depot, Houston Chron, 1/2/2015

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/In-West-Texas-protest-aims-to-stop-fracking-sand-5990189.php#0>

From a high floor of the Cactus Hotel, which he owns, Addison Lee Pfluger has a fine view over the historic downtown, much of which he also owns. Across the Concho River, where he treats the townspeople to a Christmas light display, his vantage extends unimpeded to the cotton fields and goat herds and oil pumpjacks of the vast ranches, several of which he owns as well. At 73, with neatly parted hair as golden as his wristwatch, Pfluger has assembled a local business empire matched only by his own achievements in community service, which include urban restoration, patronage of the arts and financing for charitable organizations.

15- Heavyweight Response to Local Fracking Bans, NY Times, 1/3/2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/04/us/heavyweight-response-to-local-fracking-bans.html?_r=0

This northern Colorado city vaulted onto the front lines of the battle over oil and gas drilling two years ago, when residents voted to ban hydraulic fracturing from their grassy open spaces and a snow-fed reservoir where anglers catch smallmouth bass.

16- Anti-fracking leaders from Denton, Texas, to make appearances in St. Tammany Parish, Times Picayune, 1/6/2015

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/01/denton_texas_fracking_opponent.html#incart_river

Two people whose efforts helped enact a ban on fracking in Denton, Texas, will be in St. Tammany Parish this weekend for a party and a symposium about hydraulic fracturing. The citizens group Tammany Together is putting on the events.

17- La. tribe sinks amid struggle for compensation, Greenwire, 1/6/2015

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2015/01/06/stories/1060011184>

The land that is home to a Louisiana American Indian tribe is disappearing beneath the Gulf of Mexico as the United Houma Nation struggles for any sort of recognition. Leaders of the 17,000-member tribe say the problem of gradually sinking wetlands was made significantly worse by the 2010 BP PLC oil spill.

18- As Louisiana's marshes erode, so does the Houma Indians way of life, Al Jazeera America, 1/5/15

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/1/5/louisiana-wetlandsenvironmentclimatechange.html>

Streams of oil slid into the bayous of southeastern Louisiana after the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010, damaging the marsh grasses, the wildlife and the livelihood of the 17,000-member Houma tribe. The pollution also weakened the marshes, accelerating the rapid disappearance of coastal land that is taking the Houma Indians' culture with it.

19- Forest Service yanks plan to spend millions on public relations campaign to better its image, 1/7/15

<http://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2015/01/07/forest-service-yanks-10-million-contract-to-boost-its-image>

Faced with a backlash from employees and retirees, the U.S. Forest Service has abruptly dropped plans to spend up to \$10 million on a five-year nationwide public relations campaign to brand itself as a public agency that cares about people and nature. Without giving any reason why, the Forest Service issued a statement Tuesday saying that it had not accepted any contract bids and would look for other ways to enhance the public's access to national forests and understanding about what the agency does. Spokesman Larry Chambers would not answer questions.